

**ARIZONA TRAUMA SYSTEM QUALITY ASSURANCE
AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT (AZTQ) COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 3, 2002**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Ashland
Marcia Barry
Jane Burney
Pam Goslar
Dan Judkins
Dr. John Porter
Stephen Powles
Rookie Stevens

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Burns
Melinda Case
Sheri F. Jorden
Dr. Scott Petersen
Brenda Sutton

GUESTS

Margaret Bonner
Heidi Campos
Connie Clark
Tracy Edward
Cynthia Marks
Julie Nelson
Darlene Rodriguez
Robinelle Schroder
Philomene Spadafore
Dr. Tom Wachtel
Linda Worthy

BEMS STAFF

Ramona Cajero
Judi Crume
Pennie Klein
Chuck Kramer
Larry Lorenzen
Susan Nicolas

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. John Porter called the meeting to order after a quorum was reached at 9:12 a.m.

II. DISCUSS/AMEND and APPROVE AGENDA

Dr. Porter asked the Committee if Item VI ("New Business") could be heard after the approval of the Minutes so the presenter, Judi Crume, could leave the meeting to attend another meeting. The Committee approved this switch. Motion by Stephen Powles, seconded by Bill Ashland, to approve the Agenda with this one amendment.
Motion carried.

III. DISCUSS/AMEND and APPROVE MINUTES

A motion by Stephen Powles, seconded by Dr. Pam Goslar, to accept the minutes from May 16, 2002, as presented with no changes. Motion carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amendments to Committee Bylaws

Judi Crume presented this item. She stated that the Bureau has been looking at all standing committees and subcommittees' bylaws over the past few months to see if there were ways of streamlining these bylaws to make them less restrictive and more inclusive as to the work of each committee. The following changes have been made to the subcommittee's bylaws: (1) eliminated any references to type of organization to allow general prospective of the entire EMS and trauma community to be maintained and (2) membership structure changed to eleven members or less for efficiency. Once a year the Bureau Chief, Medical Director and the Chair of the committee will meet to look at the membership of the committee to see if we have the right mix of representation to move the committee and its work forward. Within the next month, AZTQ Committee work will be defined for the next year and then membership will be defined and potential members contacted. The group was commended for its past work on the registry and initial system QA model. A discussion ensued.

B. Committee Membership
(Covered in “A.” above)

V. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Dr. Porter gave a briefing on what is happening trauma-wise in Tucson. He stated that he didn’t know if there would be one or two trauma centers in Tucson in January. They are going on the idea of only one trauma center so that they will be prepared if it happens. They had a preliminary trial based on the University being the only trauma center. The key to the new system is prehospital triage of physiologic, anatomic and mechanism points. The hospital would initially be open for trauma. If, for some reason, the trauma center would become “capacity limited”, then the hospital would go on what is called “trauma caution”. There would be no more “trauma divert” because the trauma centers must be able to take trauma patients 24 by 7. What would happen then would be the hospital would “off load” or redirect the lesser-injured patients to the community facilities so that the hospital will still have room for the more severely injured patients. This preliminary trial seemed to work well. A discussion ensued.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Trauma Registry Update

Pennie Klein started out by introducing Mr. Leon Bowman with the Lancet Corporation. Mr. Bowman was at the meeting to answer any questions or clarify the different data fields set up in the software. Pennie then asked about the Task Force that was set up to set up definitions of the data fields and has there been any meetings yet. Pam answered that the Task Force had not had a chance to meet as of yet and Pennie said that the Task Force could still meet sometime in the future to accomplish its goal.

B. Data Fields for Trauma Center Submission to State

A handout giving all the data fields within the software was distributed to the Committee members and the members was asked to review it for errors, additions or deletions. First, Dr. Porter asked about the term “TRA” in the document and, after a discussion, it was determined that it meant “Trauma Resuscitation Area”. A discussion then ensued in which items on the data fields list were deleted, changed or clarified. Those items were:

Items Deleted

“4 Digit Zip of Residence”
“4 Digit Zip Extender of Injury”
“Procedure ICD9 Text”
“DRG Assigned”
“Delay Days”
“Total Hospital Costs”
“Charge Profit/Loss”
“Cost Profit/Loss”

Items Changed or Clarified

“Time of Arrival in TRA” is the earliest time recorded of the patient arriving to the Trauma Resuscitation Area.
“Time of Transfer from TRA” will also be the earliest time recorded of the

patient being transferred out of the Trauma Resuscitation Area.
“Length of Stay (hrs) in TRA” will become an auto-calculating field based on the “Time of Arrival in TRA” and “Time of Transfer from TRA”.
“Trauma Team Availability” changed to “Complete Trauma Team Arrival Time” and this is the elapsed time from when a patient arrives in the TRA and when the trauma team arrives.
“Discharge Disposition” will be coded such that Medicare standards are not compromised.
“AIS” will become the primary form of coding.
“Injury ICD Dx Text” will become the secondary form of coding.
“Care Phase” changed to “Location of Procedure Performed”.
“Class of Non-Injury Complications” is the complications as defined by the NTDB.
“General Description of Non-injury Diagnosis” changed to “General Complications (ICD9)” and this is the defined “ICD-9 code” and text.
“Primary Payer” and “Secondary Payer” is as of the date of submission of data.

Rookie Stevens, with a second by Bill Ashland, motioned to accept the Data Element List as amended by the Committee and recommend the list to STAB. Motion carried.

A motion by Pam Goslar and seconded by Marcia Barry that AZTQ recommend to STAB that the data elements stay in place for two years. Motion carried.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Steve Powles handed out a document which was a seven-page screen printout from the Arizona Department of Public Safety’s website. Steve explained, using the handout, how to get to a listing of “EMSCOM Call Signs” that is hidden within the DPS website. A discussion ensued.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2002, at 9:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Approved by AZTQ Committee on 5/15/03